

PATENT

Appl. No. : 10/523,416 Confirmation No. 6302
Applicant : Takashi OCHI et al.
Filed : March 21, 2005
TC/A.U. : 1774
Examiner : Newton O. Edwards **VIA FACSIMILE**
Dkt. No. : IPE-050
Cust. No. : 20374

March 9, 2006

COMMENTS RE CLAIMS 17-20

Dear Examiner Edwards:

I am sorry that I could not call you today (March 9, 2006) in connection with the application identified above.

I have reviewed claims 17, 18, 19 and 20 and the specification disclosure of the application. I believe that claims 19 and 20 are completely consistent with and further limit claims 17 and 18. The average diameter of islands recited in claims 19 and 20 is a limitation separate from the area ratio recited in claims 17 and 18 and further limits the polymer alloy fiber.

I believe that this can best be understood by referring to the description of Figs. 5 and 3 on pages 65-69. Fig. 3 described on pages 68 and 69 is a cross-section of a mono-filament of a polymer alloy fiber prepared from the polymer alloy pellets described on page 65. The islands in the polymer alloy pellets are described on

P:\02-06\ipc-050-pto-resp-rest-req wjd

page 65 in terms of dispersed particles, i.e., the dispersed particles in the polymer alloy pellets are the islands. The polymer alloy fibers prepared from these pellets have islands that result from the dispersed particles in the pellets but which have essentially the same average diameter as the average diameter of the particles in the pellets. (See, for example, page 47, lines 6-13, where the area ratio of dispersed particles in the pellets is described and where it is stated that such pellets hardly yield coarse islands in the polymer alloy fiber).

Referring to Fig. 3 in light of the description on pages 68 and 69, it can be seen that the islands (white spots) are mainly of uniform diameter (or size) but that there are a small number of larger islands. If you measure the diameters of all (on page 60, lines 15 and 16, it is described that the average diameter is determined using 300 or more pores, which are equivalent to the islands in the polymer alloy fiber (see line 5 on page 60)) of the islands in the cross-section (including larger islands which have a diameter of 200 nm or more)) and divide the total of all of the diameters by the number of islands, this is the average diameter of the islands as recited in claims 19 and 20. Page 68, lines 19 and 20, describes the average diameter of the islands in Fig. 3 as 25 nm. (The average diameter of dispersed particles in the pellets as described on page 65, lines 23 and 24 as 26 nm).

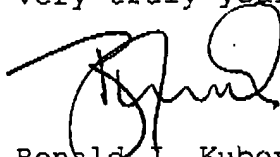
Additionally, if you select only the islands in the cross-section of the polymer alloy fiber as shown in Fig. 3 that have a diameter of 200 nm or more and calculate the area of these particles and then divide this area by the total area of all of the particles shown in the cross section, this is the area ratio of the particles having a diameter of 200 nm or more. Page 68, lines 23 and 24, describes this area ratio as 0.1% or less.

The description on pages 68 and 69, I believe, shows that there is no inconsistency between the limitations recited in claims 17 and 18 and those recited in claims 19 and 20 and that claims 19 and 20 further limit claim 17.

I hope this is helpful.

I will be in the office tomorrow after 10:30 a.m. The safest timew to call me is after 11:00 a.m.

Very truly yours,



Ronald J. Kubovcik

Atty. Case No. IPE-050
The Farragut Building
Suite 710
900 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 887-9023
Fax: (202) 887-9093
RJK/jbf